

# THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

## MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

January 13, 1981

AM

10:00

CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

### I. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Approval of December 1980 minutes
- B. Dates of next meetings: February 10, 1981  
March 10, 1981
- C. Proposed flag display on FBI Headquarters, Pennsylvania Avenue - report

### II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

- A. Department of Transportation and National Park Service
  - 1. CFA 13/JAN/81 - 1, Signage on Theodore Roosevelt Bridge and approaches to Interstate 66.
- B. National Park Service, National Capital Region
  - 1. CFA 13/JAN/81 - 2, Memorial to the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, final design details including stone and carving samples.
- C. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation
  - 1. CFA 13/JAN/81 - 3, Combination pedestrian light fixtures and benches, revised design.
- D. Smithsonian Institution
  - 1. CFA 13/JAN/81 - 4, Museum of Natural History, Constitution Avenue entry weather canopy, design proposal.



E. National Aeronautics and Space Administration

1. CFA 13/JAN/81 - 5, Special Engineering Achievement Award, NASA, revised design.

F. District of Columbia, Department of General Services

1. CFA 13/JAN/81 - 6, Community Park West, proposed landscape design for Shapiro Tract adjoining Rock Creek Park, Calvert Street and National Zoo. Adams Mill and Columbia Roads, N.W.

G. District of Columbia, Department of Housing and Community Development

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

- a. S.L. 81-18, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Design development for sq. 254.

b. Appendix I

2. Old Georgetown Act

- a. O.G. 81-38 & 39, 1226 31st Street, N.W., Hamilton Arms, repair existing three story structure to include: exterior walls and roofs. New windows and doors as shown on drawings, new floors, interior walls and new stairway.
- b. O.G. 81-49, 1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W., conceptual review. Construction of a new structure with office space, apartments, commercial space and parking.

c. Appendix II

3. Redevelopment Land Agency

- a. CFA 13/JAN/81 - 7, Metro Center Development, preliminary plans and building designs. 11th thru 13th Streets, N.W. on G Street. Office, hotel and retail use.



## REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

APPENDIX I

January 13, 1981

| <u>NO.</u>                | <u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>                            | <u>PROJECT</u>                                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| S.L. 80-32<br>HPA. 80-348 | 3006 Massachusetts Avenue, NW<br>Brazillian Embassy | Chain link fence 7' height and<br>planting of bushes |

ACTION: Returned without action pending submission of additional information.

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|             |                                                  |                                                                                     |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| * S.L. 81-2 | 2643 Virginia Avenue, N.W.<br>Sunmark Industries | Erect a canopy over gasoline<br>island and remodel service<br>station as per plans. |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

ACTION: Returned for additional information. Request submission of more descriptive drawings and material samples; also request photographs of other recent new installations and for the refurbishing of existing facilities as a supplement to drawings and renderings. Staff is available for discussion of project and can be reached at 566-1066.

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|-------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| * S.L. 81-7 | 400 C Streets, S.W.<br>500 C Street Associates | Third building of Federal Center<br>Plaza office building, eight stories<br>with Mezzanine level. This<br>buildings exterior will match that<br>of the previous two structures. |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

ACTION: Issue permit. Details, materials and graphics shall match the portions of the project now complete. Also all proposed signs shall be subject to separate review and approval.

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|-------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| * S.L. 81-9 | 2130 Cathedral Avenue, N.W.<br>Perry Perry | Construct a single family dwelling |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|

ACTION: Issue permit for new residence to be built with brick by Webster Brick Company (#6-632-1).

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|                          |                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S.L. 81-12<br>HPA. 81-84 | 2432 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.<br>Gustave Ring | Slope stabilization retaining wall<br>in rear yard. The retaining wall<br>constructed by steel beam piles<br>encased in concrete augercast piles<br>with laggings. Most of the wall is<br>covered by earth and ground cover<br>plants. |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

ACTION: Issue permit for extension of lower pile wall and new concrete and granite retaining wall. Proposed alterations will not be visible from public space and will not alter the existing landscaping as seen from public space.

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## REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

APPENDIX I

January 13, 1981

| <u>NO.</u> | <u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>                  | <u>PROJECT</u>          |
|------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| S.L. 81-12 | 2131 Sudbury Place, N.W.<br>Ronald Wooten | Single family residence |

ACTION: Issue permit; no further review by the Commission is required. Materials to be stained wood siding and uniformly colored brick in the buff or tan range. See Commission letter of December 11, 1980 to Ernest Pifer.

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|------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| S.L. 81-15 | 888 17th Street, N.W.<br>Perpetual American Bank | Sign reface |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------|

ACTION: Issue permit for changing sign text.

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|------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------|
| S.L. 81-16 | 605 15th Street, N.W.<br>Micheal Duvall | Sign reface |
|------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------|

ACTION: Issue permit for changing sign text.

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## REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

APPENDIX II

January 13, 1981

| <u>NO.</u>                                                                              | <u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>                         | <u>PROJECT</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| O.G. 80-111<br>HPA. 80-475                                                              | 3400 Prospect Street, N.W.<br>John Dreyfuss      | Dismantle stone garden wall for entrance into back yard. Wall will be rebuilt to original dimension with original stone.                                                                                             |
| ACTION: Application withdrawn by applicant.                                             |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <hr/>                                                                                   |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| O.G. 80-129<br>HPA. 80-539                                                              | 3600 Prospect Street, N.W.<br>Florence Mahoney   | Construction of front wall on property to replace existing fence.                                                                                                                                                    |
| ACTION: Returned without action. See CFA letter dated September 9, 1980.                |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <hr/>                                                                                   |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| O.G. 80-157<br>HPA. 80-608                                                              | 1517 30th Street, N.W.<br>Dodge House Associates | Replace windows, add porticos to 3 existing entrances, provide 8 parking spaces, construct patios and retaining wall, restore existing balconies and porches, construct balcony towers, install compressory on roof. |
| ACTION: Superseded by O.G. 81-24.                                                       |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <hr/>                                                                                   |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| * O.G. 80-159<br>HPA. 80-615                                                            | 2833 M Street, N.W.<br>Deanwood Development      | Revisions to mechanical system and miscellaneous architectural and structural changes.                                                                                                                               |
| ACTION: Issue permit modification to allow change to rear roofline and north elevation. |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <hr/>                                                                                   |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| O.G. 81-11<br>HPA. 81-22                                                                | 3300 M Street, N.W.<br>Meredith Corp.            | New residential/commercial building                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| ACTION: Returned without action pending submission of additional materials.             |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <hr/>                                                                                   |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |



## REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

January 13, 1981

| <u>NO.</u> | <u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u> | <u>PROJECT</u> |
|------------|--------------------------|----------------|
|------------|--------------------------|----------------|

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|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| * O.G. 81-16<br>HPA. 81-26 | 1247 30th Street, N.W.<br>Virginia Harrison | Install aluminum siding over<br>left side of the house. |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|

ACTION: Do not issue permit for aluminum siding. Recommend repair of leaks and water damage and replacement or repair of wood siding on this house. Use of artificial materials is not recommended in the historic district, nor for this particular 19th Century frame dwelling.

|                          |                                             |                |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------|
| O.G. 81-17<br>HPA. 81-37 | 2803 M Street, N.W.<br>Bryn Mawr Book Store | Hang two signs |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------|

ACTION: Issue permit for two small signs; painted wood to match existing sign.

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| O.G. 81-19<br>HPA. 81-42 | 2629 O Street, N.W.<br>Philippe deVillie Degoyet | Remove existing fence and install<br>new fence. Rebuild existing patio:<br>Build and install a sun roof over<br>part of the patio in the rear of<br>the house. |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

ACTION: Issue permit for through-the-wall air conditioning units on side and rear walls; also included is the modification of third floor rear dormer, as shown in drawings. (Note: All fence and garden construction would be subject to an additional application and has not been approved).

|                          |                                                                          |                                                                                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| O.G. 81-23<br>HPA. 81-56 | 1200-1206 Eton Court, N.W.<br>M & Potomac Streets Limited<br>Partnership | Construct casement windows in<br>the mansard roof on the south<br>side (Facing M Street) |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

ACTION: Returned; additional information requested of applicant and not received.

|                          |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| O.G. 81-24<br>HPA. 81-57 | 1517 30th Street, N.W.<br>Dodge House Associates | Construct parking, balcony towers,<br>5 ground floor apartments, ground<br>floor patios with retaining walls,<br>add porticos to 3 existing entrances<br>all as per attached plans. |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

ACTION: No objection to preliminary design for alterations of existing structure and plan for north parking court and its landscaping. Request submission of detail drawings and material samples and application. Recommend restoration of porch balusters for original structure.



January 13, 1981

| <u>NO.</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>                                      | <u>PROJECT</u>                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| * O.G. 81-25<br>HPA. 81-59                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 1000 Thomas Jefferson Street<br>One Thousand Jefferson Assoc. | Construct new six story office building |
| ACTION: Issue permit for office building. Request brick and mortar sample panel on site for approval prior to erection of walls.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                               |                                         |
| O.G. 81-26<br>HPA. 81-62                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 3243 - 5 M Street, N.W.<br>The Gap Stores                     | Restoration of storefront               |
| ACTION: Issue permit for renovation to storefront to include removal of existing projecting sign. Additional applications for signs and awning are requested.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                               |                                         |
| O.G. 81-28<br>HPA. 81-64                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 3243 - 5 M Street, N.W.<br>The Gap Stores                     | Projecting sign 1'4" x 1'4".            |
| ACTION: Superseded by O.G. 81-27.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                               |                                         |
| * O.G. 81-29<br>HPA. 81-65                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 3222 M Street, N.W.<br>Georgetown Park Associates             | Modification to residential deck.       |
| ACTION: Preliminary concept change from townhouses to flats is approved, subject to additional design refinement and simplification. Recommend that further studies explore continuity of the M Street facades and the regularity of the previous warehouse and present Grace Street structures in the project area.                                                                                                                                                      |                                                               |                                         |
| * O.G. 81-30<br>HPA. 81-66                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 3222 M Street, N.W.<br>Georgetown Park Associates             | Modification to entrance area           |
| ACTION: Do not issue permit; request design study to recapture the original simplicity of the buildings facing M Street. Additional studies requested omitting large projecting lights on M Street and black-and-white tile sidewalk paving. No objection to use of brick herring-bone paving in public areas, or the development of transom and coordinated sign areas within M Street archways. Protecting metal grills, guards and planting boxes are not recommended. |                                                               |                                         |



## REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

January 13, 1981

| <u>NO.</u> | <u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u> | <u>PROJECT</u>                              |
|------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| O.G. 81-31 | 1685 34th Street, N.W.   | Adding pitched roof over existing flat roof |
| HPA. 81-71 | Frank Luwis              |                                             |

ACTION: Issue permit for new pitched roof and dormers as shown on modified drawings. Plain dormer pediment and diagonal side boarding as shown are more typical of the historic district. Request use of white or buff colored sash instead of bronzed aluminum.

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|--------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| * O.G. 81-33 | 3301 K Street, N.W. | New substation; fully enclosed brick and concrete electric substation. |
| HPA. 81-85   | Mariani Associates  |                                                                        |

ACTION: Issue permit for construction of new electric substation which retains, in place, the east and south walls at 33rd and K Streets, N.W. Request a brick and mortar sample panel on site for approval, prior to erection of walls. Suggest that the window trim color be greenish gray.

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|              |                             |                                                                                              |
|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| * O.G. 81-34 | 1025 Thomas Jefferson, N.W. | Construction of a new structure with office space, apartments, commercial and parking space. |
| HPA. 81-86   | Galliher Bros.              |                                                                                              |

ACTION: Preliminary designs are not approved on basis of excessive height at south end of project and potential adverse impact on scale and topography constraints on that particular site. Though Commission applauds the architectural character proposed, additional study is recommended to reduce the project height further as it goes from north to south down the hill.

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|            |                     |                                                                                                         |
|------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| O.G. 81-35 | 3264 S Street, N.W. | To design and construct in accordance with attached building plans a private residential swimming pool. |
| HPA. 81-89 | Martha Stewart      |                                                                                                         |

ACTION: Issue permit for swimming pool. Fence enclosure shall match existing white painted wooden fence adjacent to site. Separate application showing fence design and location is requested.

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## REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

APPENDIX II

January 13, 1981

| <u>NO.</u> | <u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>  | <u>PROJECT</u>                                                       |
|------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| O.G. 81-40 | 1049 30th Street, N.W.    | Add windows 5,6 and 7th floor                                        |
| HPA. 81-98 | James Place at Georgetown | south elevation, add fireplaces<br>to 7th floor and chimney on roof. |

ACTION: Issue permit for additional chimneys and new window openings on fifth and sixth floors. Recommend against installation of new opening on seventh floor as proposed, though consideration from sloping parapet and aligning with openings below, per Commission sketch, is permissible. See sketch.

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|             |                        |                       |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| O.G. 81-41  | 1613 30th Street, N.W. | Application for sign. |
| HPA. 81-106 | Nancy B. Reuter        |                       |

ACTION: No objection to nine month installation of temporary sign if located on pilaster between rusticated joints as shown in sketch, furnished by Commission. See attached.

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|             |                     |                               |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| O.G. 81-42  | 3101 P Street, N.W. | Change proposed brick wall at |
| HPA. 81-110 | Don Dailey          | areaway to wood fence.        |

ACTION: Alteration of approved plans is not recommended. Vertical louvered type of fence is out of character with this building and nearby fences. Recommend restudy of fence design, though there is no objection to it being wood. Suggest a trellis design to match that on roof deck of this building.

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|             |                             |                               |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| O.G. 81-43  | 1249 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. | Addition to existing building |
| HPA. 81-111 | David Soleimanzadem         |                               |

ACTION: No objection to preliminary concept provided it conforms to applicable zoning and code requirements. The building is an old structure and an individually designated landmark requiring special care. Though proposals to rear may not be visible from public space, West facade is on Wisconsin Avenue, one of the most important commercial streets in Georgetown, and the restoration of the sash on the upper floors of the building would enhance it considerably.

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|             |                        |                              |
|-------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| O.G. 81-46  | 1337 28th Street, N.W. | Replace backyard cedar fence |
| HPA. 81-122 | David Denoon           |                              |

ACTION: Issue permit for replacement fence.

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## REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

APPENDIX II

January 13, 1981

| <u>NO.</u>  | <u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u> | <u>PROJECT</u>                  |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| O.G. 81-47  | 3300 M Street, N.W.      | Conceptual review of new        |
| HPA. 81-133 | Meredith Corporation     | residential/commercial building |

ACTION: Additional study and information requested. Conceptual design is overly complex and out of scale with character of the nearby low 19th Century buildings and is not recommended. Because of the range of visibility of this project and because it is the Commission's policy with new buildings proposed for Georgetown, a model is requested to judge further design efforts in relation to the surrounding blocks.

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|             |                     |                                |
|-------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| O.G. 81-48  | 3101 P Street, N.W. | Revision of design, wood fence |
| HPA. 81-134 | Don Dailey          | 42" high in public space       |

ACTION: Issue permit for lattice fence painted to match other lattice on building.

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# THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

## MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

13 January 1981

The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at 708 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.

### Members Present:

Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman  
Hon. Philip W. Buchen  
Hon. John S. Chase  
Hon. Sondra G. Myers  
Hon. Walter A. Netsch  
Hon. Frederick D. Nichols

### Staff Present:

Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary  
Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary  
Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson  
Mrs. Sue Kohler  
Mr. Richard Ryan

### National Capital Planning

#### Commission Staff Present:

Mr. George Evans

### D. C. Historic Preservation

#### Office Staff Present:

Ms. Tanya Beauchamp

## I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Minutes of December 1980 meeting: approved.

B. Dates of next meetings, approved as: 10 February 1981  
10 March 1981

At the Chairman's request, the date for the April meeting was changed from 14 April to 7 April 1981.

C. Proposed flag display on FBI Headquarters, Pennsylvania Avenue, report. The Secretary showed the original proposal for five by eight foot flags and then reported that he and the Assistant Secretary had seen a mock-up using both the five by eight and eight by twelve foot flags on the original twelve foot staff. He said the larger flag was



a distinct improvement and when mounted on a fifteen foot staff, as proposed, should be acceptable. The members agreed to approve the installation on the basis of this report.

## II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

### A. Department of Transportation and National Park Service

1. CFA 13/JAN/81-1, Signs on Theodore Roosevelt Bridge and approaches to Interstate 66. The Secretary explained that this submission was for new signs to guide motorists using the new section of I-66 now under construction. He noted that the bridge was under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior, although the Virginia Department of Transportation had actually taken the lead in developing the signs. Richard Lockwood, from this department, was introduced and explained that because of the rather large number of restrictions applying to usage of this section of the highway between the Capital Beltway and Theodore Roosevelt Bridge, the signs had to convey more than the usual amount of information; however, because of the proximity of the bridge to the major memorials they had to be as unobtrusive as possible. He introduced Robert Newman from Howard, Needles, Tammen and Bergendorff, engineers, who showed photographs of present conditions on the bridge and then explained what new signs would be needed. He said there would be only two signs on each side to inform motorists of approaching lane changes, although three was the usual number. He showed photographs of the proposed signs, explaining the copy to be placed on each, and then asked the designer, Carlton Abbott, to discuss the form of the supports for the signs. Mr. Abbott showed a drawing of a steel support which would span both east and west bound lanes of the roadway, although signs would be required on one side only. He was asked why the support could not end at the median strip and avoid the "triumphal arch" appearance; the reply was that it would be difficult to anchor it there because of the design of the center barrier, although anchoring in the median strip would be feasible. Mr. Netsch suggested that as the existing signs are of the counter balance, cantilever type, studies should be made to see if the new signs could not be of a similar design. The other members agreed that further study was needed, and unanimously disapproved the signs. Exhibit A

### B. National Park Service, National Capital Region

1. CFA 13/JAN/81-2, Memorial to the signers of the Declaration of Independence, final design details, including stone and carving samples. The Assistant Secretary reviewed the Commission's approval of the design in June 1980 and the request at that time to review final design and landscaping details, wall material, and the design of the inscriptions to be cut into the stones. He introduced Joseph Brown, landscape architect from EDAW, who discussed these items. He reviewed the design briefly for the new members, pointing out on a drawing the elliptical shape of the memorial area, defined by the rows of signature





stones. Mr. Brown showed a sample of one of the dark red granite stones, with the signature filled in with raised lead and the inscription below giving home town and profession cut into the stone. There was some concern that vandals might dig out the lead; Mr. Brown conceded this was a possibility but said it could be glued in, making removal difficult. The planting plan was discussed, with Mr. Brown describing the placement of willows, saucer magnolias, and lower growing azaleas, ivy and cotoneaster. Potentilla would be planted in the reveals between the rows of signature stones because of its hardiness and drought resistance. The low wall behind the memorial would be constructed of split face granite. There were no objections to the details presented, and the design was unanimously given final approval. Exhibit B

#### C. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

1. CFA 13/JAN/81-3, Combination pedestrian light fixtures and benches, revised design. The Assistant Secretary reviewed the Commission's request, in October 1980, for restudy of the light pole, and then introduced Robert Sprowls from PADC, and the designer of the light, Albert Paley. New drawings showed a straight, rather than curved pole, with a bracket to hold the fixture. The members all agreed this was an improvement, but Mr. Netsch was concerned about the design of the fixture itself, which was round in shape, as it had been in the original submission. He thought an oval shape might be more sympathetic with the Art Nouveau character of the bench and tree grate below. He was also concerned that there would be too many pools of bright light along the avenue: there would be 700 of these lights, two rows on each side of the street, thirty feet on center. The fixture would be only ten feet above the sidewalk. Concerning the shape of the fixture, Mr. Paley said he had been given the design of the luminaire, which dictated the round housing. Mr. Sprowls commented also that the lights would be staggered, thus lessening the problem of isolated pools of light. The members thought that the level of light was also too bright, and all agreed that a mock-up was necessary to determine the answers to the questions raised. Mr. Sprowls agreed to this, and the design, as presented, was unanimously disapproved. Exhibit C

D. CFA 13/JAN/81-4, Museum of Natural History, Constitution Avenue entry weather canopy, design proposal. Staff member Richard Ryan outlined the Smithsonian's request to make alterations for weather protection, and then introduced Smithsonian representatives Philip Reiss and Jack Stevens, who discussed their proposals in more detail. Mr. Reiss said there was no weather protection for visitors at this entrance, and furthermore, there had been problems with the wind blowing debris and cold air into the building when the doors opened, particularly those at the handicapped entrances. The design showed a heavy, dark grey canvas canopy over the entrance and a low, steel and glass screen in front of it, which was intended to



cut the wind. The members all commented that the proposed windscreen was too low and too far away to be of any help and perhaps might even aggravate the problem, and was out of keeping with the architecture of the building. Mr. Netsch thought the canopy should be of a more permanent material, given the type of building and architectural style; it was suggested by the Chairman and Mr. Nichols that the Smithsonian look at some of the steel and glass canopies on other Beaux-Arts buildings for inspiration, although it was not expected that the elaborate decorative ironwork of that period would be employed in this case. The alterations shown were unanimously disapproved. Exhibit D

E. National Aeronautics and Space Administration

1. CFA 13/JAN/81-5, Special Engineering Achievement Award medal, NASA, revised design. The Secretary showed the previous submission and recalled the Commission's request for a more sophisticated design. He then showed other NASA medals in the same series which had been approved previously and were similar in design to the first submission. Thomas Fischetti, the representative from NASA, said the artist, Robert Schulman, had designed this medal to relate to the others. He showed two alternative designs, both depicting the aeronautical and space aspects of the agency. While the members were not especially pleased with either design, they agreed that this medal, probably the last in the series, should relate to the others. They unanimously approved the version with the smaller airfoil. Exhibit E

F. District of Columbia, Department of General Services

1. CFA 13/JAN/81-6, Community Park West, proposed landscape design for Shapiro Tract adjoining Rock Creek Park, Calvert Street and National Zoo. Adams Mill and Columbia Roads, N. W. Staff member Jeffrey Carson described this 3.8 acre park in the Adams-Morgan area, bounded on the east by Adams Mill Road, on the north and west by Zoo and Park Service land, and on the south by privately owned structures. He commented that the citizens of the area had been working for some time with the D. C. Government to achieve a park on this property. He introduced D. C. Government representative Charles Pavlick who in turn introduced landscape architect Meade Palmer. Mr. Palmer described the design process, saying that the citizens had first worked with a planner to find out what they wanted and what they could afford, and then worked with him on the actual placement and design of the various elements. With the aid of a drawing and models, Mr. Palmer pointed out the quiet recreational area near Adams Mill Road with backgammon tables and an area for mothers with small children; the playing fields at a lower level, and the basketball courts, walled on three sides to create a sound barrier and minimize the noise reaching the private houses to the south. A jogging trail would run around the perimeter of the park. There were no questions or objections to the design, and it was unanimously approved. Exhibit F



G. District of Columbia, Department of Housing and Community Development

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 81-18, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W. Design development for Square 254. The Assistant Secretary described this hotel/retail/office project, at the corner of Fourteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, with frontage also along F Street to the north. He reviewed the previous submission in June 1980 and the Commission's approval at that time of the design concept. He said this submission was for approval of material and color samples and for design development, adding that the drawings had not been delivered to the staff until the day previous to the meeting, leaving insufficient time in which to review them. He noted that associated architect Frank Schlesinger, representatives from the architectural firm of Mitchell/Giurgola, Quadrangle Development, and PADC were all present at the meeting to answer any questions. Mr. Schlesinger then described the material and color samples. He showed a color rendering of the Pennsylvania Avenue facade, noting that the colors shown were not correct; the tall building in particular had not been rendered dark enough. He said the limestone for the office building on the avenue would be similar in color to the old National Theatre adjoining it. The tall hotel section behind would be a dark grey glazed brick, laid with a dark mortar with windows of dark glass set in black frames. Decorative designs at the Fourteenth Street corner and along the top of the Pennsylvania Avenue facade would be formed from blue glazed brick and red and white tiles. Material for the first floor would be green granite.

In answer to a question from Mr. Netsch, Mr. Schlesinger said the predominantly dark color scheme had been chosen because the architects thought a dark plane behind the smaller, light-colored office building and theatre would give these small buildings more emphasis, and also because a dark building would act as a foil to the Willard. Both the Chairman and Mr. Netsch thought that such a large building constructed of almost black brick would give a funereal aspect to the avenue. There was consensus that only a small color change would be required to differentiate the low theatre and office buildings from the tall structure behind. Mr. Nichols thought that a large dark mass would tend to come forward rather than recede, and would not help to balance the two disparate parts of the project as the representatives from Mitchell/Giurgola thought it would. Slides were then shown of the entire project to review it for the new members. The architects were not convinced that a lighter grey brick would provide enough contrast to the limestone office section. They recalled the use of a very dark color on the PSFS building in Philadelphia, and while all agreed that it was very effective on that building, and on a business street, they did not think it appropriate on the capital city's





ceremonial avenue, especially as Washington's public buildings are almost exclusively light in color. Mr. Schlesinger asked if the architects could erect a large sample panel of the dark brick on the site. The Chairman said there would be no objection to this, but asked that several panels be erected using different shades and/or colors. He also asked Mr. Schlesinger to bring more detailed drawings of the decorative elements for the next submission. The material samples and colors were unanimously disapproved, and approval of the working drawings held in abeyance until the material selection could be resolved. Exhibit G

b. Appendix 1, approved.

2. Old Georgetown Act

a. O.G. 81-38 and 39, 1226 31st Street, N. W., Hamilton Arms, repair existing three story structure to include: exterior walls and roofs. New windows and doors as shown on drawings, new floors, interior walls and new stairway. Staff member Richard Ryan reviewed the Commission's previous recommendations that the roof line on this old house not be changed, a recommendation the architect had complied with. He said the Georgetown Board had then reviewed the plans and had some questions about the location of a door and the width of the siding, which had subsequently been answered to their satisfaction. The Commission members had no further questions and unanimously approved the alterations.

b. O.G. 81-49, 1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, N. W., conceptual review. Construction of a new structure with office space, apartments, commercial space and parking. (Mr. Netsch left the room because of his association with the architects, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.) The Assistant Secretary recalled the Commission's request in August 1980 for additional studies to reduce the height; in November for height, mass and sight line studies; and in December for further study and perhaps a revised design, one which would employ some vertical elements to break up the mass and reflect the change in topography by use of a lower section to the south. He introduced architect David Childs who discussed the additional studies and the revised design which had resulted. He pointed out on drawings and a model the redesigned southern section, saying that the south one quarter of the building had been lowered by two floors. He said there would be a terrace on the roof of this section which would allow more light to enter the interior courtyards, and that all residential space had been removed from this section. Vertical elements to break up the mass were provided by towers at the south end of the main building and at the K Street corner.

The members thought the new design an improvement, although the Chairman thought the larger of the towers, at the end of the main section, should project out from the face of the building below the cornice line





to give some relief to the flat, horizontal feeling of the facade. Mr. Childs did not think the flat rhythm would become repetitious and said he wanted to keep the feeling of the project being one building and not break it up into separate elements. It was suggested that some slight change in the window pattern at that point, or perhaps a balcony, would be enough to keep the "skin" from becoming too "tight". Other than this suggestion, the members were pleased with the revisions and unanimously approved the design concept.

c. Appendix 2, approved.

### 3. Redevelopment Land Agency

a. CFA 13/JAN/81-7, Metro Center Development, preliminary plans and buildings designs, 11th through 13th Streets, N. W., on G Street. Office, hotel and retail use. The Assistant Secretary introduced Larry Press from the D. C. Government, who gave the members a brief history of this project. He said planning for it had begun a number of years ago and the intent was to revitalize the downtown area. In the early 1970's it became part of an urban renewal plan, with future development placed under strict controls and constraints. He recalled a project seen by the Commission in 1975 which had ultimately proved too expensive to build, another proposal in 1977, and finally, in 1979, the current proposal by Oliver T. Carr, Ted Hagans, and architects Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. He noted that within this time span the subway had opened, and said he was hopeful now that this project would go forward. He mentioned some of the constraints on development, including a minimum FAR of 9 and a maximum of 10 (with 11 possible under PUD), arcades along the street frontage, provision for small businesses, and no service entrances on G Street.

The architect, David Childs, began his presentation by saying that this was an important city project, one which could symbolize the rejuvenation of downtown. It would span more than two blocks on G Street, and because it could effectively jump two streets of the city plan, it made possible the creation of a true city center. The project would be divided into three parts, both horizontally and vertically. Horizontally, there would be three separate buildings: a main building between Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets, a "wing" to the west across Thirteenth Street, and one to the east at Eleventh Street. An open plaza at Twelfth Street, where the Metro entrance is located, would separate the main building from the Eleventh Street wing. Vertically, the buildings would be divided according to the old tradition into base, shaft, and capital. Each building would be 130 feet in height. Mr. Childs then explained the use planned for each section. The center building's main user would be Hecht's Department Store, with three levels below grade and five above. The upper levels would be office space. To the west, across Thirteenth Street, would be an office building with parking below. The Eleventh Street



wing would house retail stores and offices with parking below. To the north, at Twelfth and H, plans called for a hotel, to be run by the Hilton Hotel chain. Mr. Childs described the plaza planned for the open space at Twelfth and G, saying it would be comparable to Western Plaza on Pennsylvania Avenue. Drawings showed the attractive facade of the present fire station on Twelfth Street relocated at the north end of this plaza, facing south. The plaza itself would recall similar spaces designed during the Baroque period, with a central area gradually narrowing from south to north. In this area a bridge, 152 feet in length, would span Twelfth Street, connecting the east and center buildings. Thirty feet in width, it would provide space for shops as well as functioning as a pedestrian connection between the two buildings at the second floor level.

Mr. Childs then showed elevation drawings of the project and discussed the architectural elements, materials and colors. He said the first three stories would give the sense and scale of the old downtown buildings remaining in the area, with two story arcades running along the street fronts, except at the corners where they would increase to three stories. The drawings showed windows forming a quoining pattern at the corners, and bay windows were used for the shop fronts along the arcades. There was a large light well in the center of the main building, stepping back from the G Street facade at the upper levels. Mr. Childs said the material would be granite, in different colors and textures. The upper floors would be predominantly grey with the addition of strips of rose granite; at the lower level the color scheme would be reversed, with rose being the dominant color. He said the use of color was very important in that it would help break down the scale. Brown London pavers laid in running bond would be used through the project, except for the arcades, which would have their own paving pattern. Mr. Childs said a large number of street trees would be planted and cast iron tree grates used; the side yard of Epiphany Church would be landscaped and trees planted at the sides and along the street front.

The members were generally pleased with the design, but had several reservations. The Chairman was especially concerned about the effect of too much symmetry in an area of the city not characterized by this type of planning. The light well feature, exactly in the center of the main building, was particularly worrisome. He thought it could be moved somewhat to the west, where it would be balanced by the church farther along in the same direction. He and the other members were also concerned that the columns at the ends of the buildings seemed too delicate for the rest of the structure. Mr. Childs defended his use of symmetry by saying that this project would be at the very center of downtown, would act as a sort of anchor, and therefore needed the sense of stability provided by a symmetrical composition. He agreed with the comment about the size of the columns, but added that his major client, Hecht's, had not wanted any columns at the corners. Mr. Chase was concerned about the bridge over Twelfth Street and wondered if it would set a precedent. The other members agreed this could be a problem,



13 January 1981

9.

although they thought it was appropriate in this particular situation provided it was treated as a major element. Mr. Childs said a hearing would be required for each such bridge proposed, and he agreed that it was not something which should be repeated frequently. Mr. Buchen asked why the two smaller buildings had to look alike, and Mr. Childs replied that he wanted to keep the feeling that all the buildings were part of one project, somewhat like Rockefeller Center in New York.

The Chairman suggested that for the next submission Mr. Childs bring photographs and drawings showing how the buildings would look in context and from the pedestrian level. The project was unanimously disapproved pending this further information. Exhibit H

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles H. Atherton".

Charles H. Atherton  
Secretary





# THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

Exhibit A

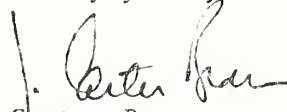
January 26, 1981

Dear Mr. Lockwood:

The Commission met with you and your consultants to discuss new signs for the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge at our January 13, 1981 meeting and found that the designs had not progressed to the point where we could recommend that the Secretary of the Interior approve them. The studies to date are good and should provide the basis for additional exploration.

Our principal concern is the blending of any new installations with the existing counterbalanced-cantilever signs. The smallest possible cantilever signs should be studied, since they may be far more successful visually than the long lane-crossing horizontal beams crossing lanes on which they are not needed and supporting different-sized signs hung on them, at their mid-points. The existing signs have the virtue of consolidating structure and sign planes and being only as long as absolutely necessary. The Commission and its staff will be available at your earliest convenience to discuss alternatives.

Sincerely yours,

  
J. Carter Brown  
Chairman

Mr. Richard C. Lockwood  
Transportation Planning Engineer  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
Department of Highways and Transportation  
1221 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219





# THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

Exhibit B

January 26, 1981

Dear Jack:

The Commission approved final details for the Signers Memorial in Constitution Gardens during its January 18, 1981 meeting. We reviewed drawings and the revised model, as well as the granite sample and find them completely within the approach approved by the Commission during preliminary design review. Should any questions arise concerning construction, detailing or changes to the approved design, we will be happy to assist you further.

Sincerely yours,



J. Carter Brown  
Chairman

Mr. Manus J. Fish  
National Park Service  
National Capital Region  
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20242

Exhibit B



# THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

Exhibit C

January 26, 1981

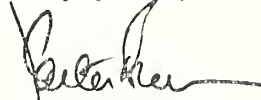
Dear Mr. Barnes:

The Commission met with Bob Sprowls of your staff and designer William Paley on January 13, 1981. We found that additional study of the tree lighting for Pennsylvania Avenue had helped, but not quite reached the point of our recommendation for approval. The bench and vertical standards are now acceptable, but the shape of the actual top "light fixture" should have additional study.

In recommending additional study of the housing for the luminaire, the luminaire itself may be the problem. We find the proposed saucer form incompatible with the art nouveau flavor of its supporting pole and the bench, or even the beaux arts character of other street furniture that has already been approved. The lighting intensity at the pedestrian level resulting from the proposed 100-watt bulbs may be too high. Perhaps a reduced level of illumination is the key to redesigning the luminaire.

With seven hundred of these units to be placed on the avenue, we feel it is important to have a mock-up of the fixture erected on the avenue for careful on-site inspection. Studying mock-ups of the ornamental fixtures and the highway lights was a help in achieving the final result. We hope that can be continued with final designs for the new fixture.

Sincerely yours,



J. Carter Brown  
Chairman

Mr. Anderson Barnes, Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation  
425 13th Street, N.W., Suite 1148  
Washington, D. C. 20004

Exhibit C



# THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

Exhibit D

January 26, 1981

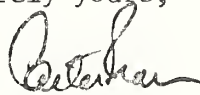
Dear Mr. Reiss:

The Commission was glad to meet with you and members of the Smithsonian staff to discuss the proposed canopy and wind shields for the Natural History Museum's Constitution Avenue entrance. Although the Commission understands the problems caused by the blowing wind, leaves, etc, we doubt that the proposed freestanding glass screens will do much to alleviate the situation. In fact, they may very well channel the wind around the entrance and make the situation worse. In any case, visually they were found to be out of keeping with the architectural style of that historic building.

The proposed awning may be practical, on the other hand, but unfortunately it too does little to enhance the appearance of the building. Ideally, a new entrance canopy compatible with this style of architecture should be more permanent and refined, such as some of the glass and ornamental designs featured on the larger turn-of-the-century structures on Massachusetts Avenue and 16th Street.

I know the staff has done a good deal of study of this area and would be delighted to work with you in locating some good examples for reference.

Sincerely yours,



J. Carter Brown  
Chairman

Mr. Philip K. Reiss, Director  
Office of Design and Construction  
Smithsonian Institution  
955 L'Enfant Plaza, Room 3230  
Washington, D. C. 20560

Exhibit D



# THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

Exhibit E

January 26, 1981

Dear Mr. Schulman:

The Commission was glad to meet with you and to approve the revised designs for the Nasa Exceptional Engineering Achievement Medal during our January 13, 1981 meeting. We feel that the additional effort has resulted in a design that is closer to the rest of the series and more in character with other NASA Agency graphics. Of the two alternatives presented, the Commission recommends that you use the design with the smaller airfoil.

We look forward to being of further service to you at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,



J. Carter Brown  
Chairman

Mr. Robert Schulman  
Graphics Coordinator  
Office of Public Affairs  
National Aeronautics and Space  
Administration  
Washington, D. C. 20546

Exhibit E





# THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

Exhibit F

January 26, 1981

Dear Mr. Pavlick:

The Commission was happy to meet with you and landscape architect Mead Palmer, and approve plans for Community Park West at Calvert Street and Adams Mill Road at our January 13, 1981 meeting. We understand that the design is a result of extensive community participation and has been coordinated with the adjacent National Zoological Park and the National Park Service.

Sincerely yours,



J. Carter Brown  
Chairman

Mr. Charles Pavlick, Liaison Officer  
District of Columbia Government  
Department of General Services  
613 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20001

Exhibit F



# THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

Exhibit G

January 26, 1981

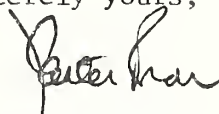
Dear Mr. Moore:

The Commission of Fine Arts met with representatives of the architects, developers and the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation staff on January 13, 1981 to discuss design development and materials for the proposed office building and hotel on square 254 at 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., (S.L. 81-18). Based on the Commission's approval of the preliminary plans and massing for this site, we feel that the designs have progressed in a satisfactory manner, but we are seriously concerned about the proposed exterior materials.

Therefore we would like to see additional study of the proposed exterior finishes including a review of the concept of brick itself on those portions of the hotel facing Pennsylvania Avenue and 14th Street. As proposed to us the dominant material would be dark gray glazed brick with decorative elements of red, white and blue tile. As a part of a streetscape that is essentially limestone, or in that tonal range, we feel that the very dark brick may result in too great a contrast and result in a building that is a severely discordant element on the Avenue. The Commission also questions the use of brightly colored ornamental materials on the project and feels that they should be subordinate to the color range of the major public spaces and historic structures adjacent to it.

We will be happy to review new materials at our next meeting on March 10, 1981. As discussed at the meeting, we look forward to inspecting sample panels of materials on the site before any final action can be taken.

Sincerely yours,



J. Carter Brown  
Chairman

Robert L. Moore  
Director  
D.C. Department of Housing  
and Community Development  
1325 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005



# THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

Exhibit H

January 26, 1981

Dear Mr. Kerr:

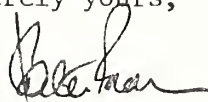
The Commission was delighted to see the new Metro Center Development project designs at its January 13, 1981 meeting. We found the project in general handsomely designed and expect that it will be a significant contribution to the development of the downtown core of Washington.

Although we approve the concept and design direction, the Commission does feel that further refinement is still needed. In our conversation with architect David Childs, we encouraged him to give further study to such elements as the corner columns and windows which appear too narrow. The symmetry of the department store building was also questioned, although we recognize the rationale for such an approach. There may be too much emphasis on the center element at the expense of the open plaza on the east.

We do want the record to show that the Commission of Fine Arts considers the approval of the proposed bridge across 12th Street to be an exception in a unique situation. We are generally opposed to the use of bridges across the streets and vistas of the city. However, this bridge should contribute substantially to the project by generating a certain excitement and drama in the public plaza. This quality is further enhanced by the reconstruction of the old firehouse façade and entrance "pavilion" on the north side of the plaza next to the hotel, a feature of the design which we heartily endorse.

The Commission will be happy to meet with the architects and developers to consider further design developments, materials, etc. whenever they are ready.

Sincerely yours,



J. Carter Brown  
Chairman

Mr. James E. Kerr, Administrator  
Development Administration  
District of Columbia Government  
Department of Housing and Community Development  
Washington, D. C. 20005

